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**Subject:** Weekly News from DESA, CWD and CASD

**Division of Environmental Science and Assessment**  
**Weekly News**  
**April 7, 2016**

Potential or Expected Press Stories

Freedom of Information Requests of RA Interest

Travel/Meetings/Speaking Engagements for Division Directors

Upcoming Highlights for the week (please provide a bulleted list)

Marie O'Shea and Pat Sheridan participated in a call with R2 PAD to assist in the preparation of talking points for the upcoming April 13th White House launch of citizenscience.gov, an online database of federally funded citizen science projects. One project expected to be featured in EPA's social media amplifications of the White House Announcements is the recent Citizen Science project in Ironbound.

2016 Citizen Science Water Monitoring Equipment Loan Program: Seven applicants (Save the Sound; NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program; NYSDEC WAVE Volunteer; NYC Water Trail Association; Rockland County Soil & Water District; Raritan Headwaters Association and the New Jersey City University) have been selected to participate in the 2016 EPA Region 2 Citizen Science Equipment Loan Program to monitor urban waters and/or tributaries in Environmental Justice areas throughout New York and New Jersey. The equipment loan program is open to all citizen scientists/community groups in EPA Region 2, including those coordinated by states, municipalities, universities, and other organizations. The equipment loaned in 2016 is on a short-term basis (April – December of each calendar year), and will be limited to water quality meters, equipment to run laboratory bacterial tests, GPS units, turbidity tubes. New this year is nutrient sampling. Training is scheduled for May 26th at the Edison Facility.

Hudson River – DESA managers will be meeting with RPM Klawinski and ERTs Marc Greenberg regarding recently submitted QAPP revisions and laboratory SOPs for the Hudson River PCBs project. In addition, a visit to Pace Analytical Laboratory by DESA and NYS DOH/DEC personnel will be conducted on Thursday April 7.

Mansfield Trail – DESA personnel will be collecting vapor intrusion samples at residences associated to the Mansfield Trail Superfund site to ensure that the system in place continues to be successful in removing the contaminants of concern.

Dewey Loeffel – DESA is preparing to collect sediment and surface water samples from the Valatie Kill in Rensselaer, Nassau County, NY on April 11-12. The section of the Kill to be sampled is downstream of the former Dewey Loeffel Landfill. The team will be collecting all samples for VOCs, SVOCs, Pesticides/PCBs, metals + Hg, MEE, and 1,4-Dioxane.

3Ts Lead in Drinking Water Program – Bayonne, NJ Public Schools – Update: School sampling schedule is as follows: April 7 (#6 Horace Mann) and April 8 (#9 Washington Community). As of April 6, 2016, five (5) of 13 buildings have been sampled. The next round of sampling is scheduled for the week of April 18<sup>th</sup>.

NYC Water Surveillance: On April 11, 2016, quarterly surveillance monitoring will be conducted at Hillview Reservoir Catskill Shafts 1 and 3 located in Yonkers, NY. Field measurements include temperature, pH, conductivity, and specific conductance. The DESA lab will be performing the analyses for *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, turbidity, total organic carbon and microbiology (total coliform, e. Coli).

PREPA Fuel Oil: The QAPP was approved this week.

The LAB will be accepting the following upcoming projects:

Old Roosevelt Field – Superfund

Metals, Nitrate, Nitrite, TDS, TSS, (2 Aqueous Samples); VOA-Trace (10 Aqueous Samples)

Dewey Loeffel – Superfund

TDS, TSS, BOD, COD, Total Phosphorus, Oil & Grease (5 Aqueous Samples)

Lawrence Aviation – Superfund

VOA-Trace, Fluoride, Metals+Hg: (17 Aqueous Samples)

**Clean Water Division  
Weekly News  
April 6, 2016**

Potential or Expected Press Stories

Hoosick Falls PFOA

Contact from Elected Officials

None

Freedom of Information Requests of RA Interest

None

Travel/Meetings/Speaking Engagements for Division Directors

Thursday, April 14, is a tentative date for Joan and others to travel to the Shinnecock Nation in Southampton to follow up on the nation's concerns over illegal dumping.

Indian Consultations Requested or Initiated

None

Peconic Estuary Program (PEP): The Peconic Estuary Program is receiving \$200,000 from New York State's Ocean and Great Lakes fund in FY 2016. These funds will be put toward two continuous monitoring stations operated by the U.S. Geological Survey. Up until 2014, the PEP paid for these monitoring stations using Clean Water Act Section 320 National Estuary Program funds; but this \$200k enables the Program to use its annual NEP grant to support other priority projects, such as those that further nitrogen reduction activities on the East End. These funds are included in the PEP's Management Committee-approved annual budget for 2016.

Nonpoint Source Management Program: The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently inquired as to the status of Territorial Nonpoint Source Management Program (NPS MP) upgrades. The U.S. Virgin

Islands (USVI) update has not been completed or approved by EPA (the Puerto Rico update has been completed and approved by EPA). The USVI NPS MP consists of two parts: an Environmental Handbook and a separate Program document. The USVI submitted a draft Program document to EPA for review. The document describes nonpoint source program elements and goals. Region 2 is working with USVI to finalize this document, which is scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2016. The upgrade of the USVI Environmental Handbook is central to its nonpoint source enforcement program (referred to as “Earth Change Permitting”). EPA awarded a grant to USVI for \$50,000 for phase 2 of a project to upgrade its Environmental Handbook.

EPA Nitrogen Strategy: EPA will hold two public meetings on the nitrogen reduction strategy. The first on April 13 in Stamford, CT and the second in Huntington, NY, on April 15. Senator Schumer held a public meeting on Monday, April 4 in support of the EPA Nitrogen Control Strategy (covered by Newsday; see <http://www.newsday.com/long-island/long-island-sound-nitrogen-plan-needs-funding-schumer-says-1.11652313>). Senator Murphy held a similar public meeting in New Haven, CT on March 31 (covered by the New Haven Register; see <http://www.nhregister.com/government-and-politics/20160324/murphy-learns-theres-no-simple-solution-for-a-cleaner-long-island-sound>

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on EPA Report Card Input: EPA has received a copy of the MOU that we drafted (and ORC reviewed) signed by all the foundations involved in the production of the next Long Island Sound Report Card. The MOU lays out EPA’s role in providing technical input on indicators that could be used in the development of a report card and the role of the foundations in interacting with EPA in that effort. The MOU will be circulated to both Region 1 and 2 for Regional Administrator signature.

Tidal Wetlands Trends Report: The Long Island Sound Study issued a press release on April 1 on the study, *Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Long Island Sound Area: 130-Year Assessment* published by the Fish and Wildlife Service with assistance from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Conducted under the Long Island Sound Study partnership, the work is the first long-term, Sound-wide assessment of the changes in the area of tidal wetlands. The study estimates that there are 7,814 fewer acres of tidal wetlands around the Sound today compared to the 1880s, with the loss of 5,262 acres in Connecticut and 2,552 in New York. The majority of wetland loss occurred prior to the adoption in the 1970s of federal and state laws to protect wetlands from dredging and filling related to land and port development. The study did find a modest gain since the 1970s in Connecticut wetlands, which increased by 1,123 acres, or 8 percent. New York saw a decline since the 1970s of 674 acres, a 19 percent loss, resulting from several compounding factors including sea level rise. More than 80 percent of wetlands along the Long Island Sound coast are in Connecticut. Coverage included:

WSHU (NPR radio): <http://wshu.org/post/new-study-staggering-loss-wetlands-ct-and-li>

The DAY (New London, CT, print) <http://www.theday.com/local/20160331/new-study-quantifies-loss-of-long-island-sound-wetlands>

The MIRROR (Milford, CT, print) <http://www.milfordmirror.com/57956/new-study-documents-wetland-loss-along-long-island-sound/>

The POST (Greenwich, CT, print) <http://www.greenwich-post.com/43110/new-study-documents-wetland-loss-along-long-island-sound/>

The SUN (Fairfield, CT, print) <http://www.fairfield-sun.com/tag/wetlands/>  
<http://www.thebridgeportnews.com/20378/new-study-documents-wetland-loss-along-long-island-sound/>

Niantic (watershed group) <http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org/2016/04/april-1-2016-2/>

Green Infrastructure – Perth Amboy: The NY/NJ Harbor & Estuary Program received two proposals in response to its RFP to assist Perth Amboy in incorporating green infrastructure into CSO permit compliance and its LTCP. The project will document the benefits of green infrastructure and an integrated approach to stormwater

management by identifying potential installations across two representative catchment areas in the City of Perth Amboy. It will also model the projects' likely contributions to water quality as well as co-benefits, such as enhanced property values, provision of greenspace, air quality, green jobs, and other social benefits. The advisory committee has reviewed the proposals and will notify the applicants of its decision by next week.

HQ Small System Contract Support-North Carolina Environmental Finance Center (EFC): On March 29, 2016, VIDPNR, the Clean Water Division and a contractor conducted a kick-off conference call to discuss the financial technical assistance needs for systems and managerial workshop requirements to be provided through FY16 as part of the HQ small system grant. DPNR will coordinate school availability to attend an EFC workshop on St. Croix and St Thomas. The workshop will focus on energy efficiency and asset management. Additionally, EFC will provide on-site assistance to schools and the FY15 participants to measure successful and if they require more assistance from EFC or another small system contractor.

Sole Source Aquifer (SSA): Several SSA-NEPA reviews were completed for proposed projects to be funded by HUD's Disaster Recovery grants, including the elevation of a roadway in Tioga County, stream restoration in Broome County and the replacement and elevation of emergency generators at seven sites on Fire Island, Suffolk County. Additionally, CASD and the Clean Water Division have created a checklist for these reviews.

**Clean Air and Sustainability Division**  
**Weekly News**  
**April 7, 2016**

Travel/Meetings/Speaking Engagements for Division Directors

John will participate in the Northeast Recycling Council's Spring Conference on April 12 -13 in Princeton, NJ.

Other Items:

NJ and NY Ozone Transport SIP Withdrawal: New Jersey withdrew the "Good Neighbor" Transport portion of their infrastructure SIP for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS on March 30th. The "Good Neighbor" provision of 110(a)(2)(D)(i) of the CAA prohibits any source in a State from emitting air pollutants in any amount that will contribute significantly to nonattainment, or interfere with maintenance in a downwind state. EPA had included NJ and NY, as well as other eastern states, in the proposed Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) FIP issued last November, and to be finalized later this year. The withdrawal will allow EPA to include NJ in the CSAPR FIP without first having to disapprove NJ's submittal. New York also plans to withdraw the "Good Neighbor" Transport portion shortly. Both New Jersey and New York are aware that it will be necessary for EPA to issue a Finding of Failure to Submit (FFS) in order for the states to be included in the CSAPR FIP. A FFS will also be necessary to address related litigation from the Sierra Club. We anticipate drafting a FFS by June. The final CSAPR rule will be issued in August.

Virgin Islands Construction Program Grants: On March 30, the DOI's Secretary, Sally Jewell, met with the steering committee of the recently formed US VI Climate Change Council (consists of 27 members representing territorial government agencies, universities, public/private sectors) to award the group an \$828,050 grant. The grant supports the efforts to address climate change impacts to St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas. Governor Mapp's Oct. 15, 2015 order tasks the Council to assess climate change vulnerabilities and devise an adaptation strategy to make the islands more resilient. The grant funds will support five full-time staffers to run the Council for two years. CASD reached out to Shawn-Michael Malone, the Federal Affairs Coordinator and a member of the Council, to find out more about the Council's goals and to share the wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvement projects that underwent NEPA review for VIWMA and DPW. We are getting involved in the Council as many of these existing and future projects are located in coastal zone areas exposed to effects from climate change.

Sale of Plum Island, New York: The Department of Homeland Security issued a Report to Congress addressing the Alternatives for Final Disposition of Plum Island; alternatives were focused on conservation. Proceeds from the sale of the island were originally directed to be used for the construction of the replacement laboratory in Manhattan, Kansas. Since the new facility was eventually fully funded by Congress, a report was subsequently requested to evaluate additional alternatives for the final disposition of the island. EPA has long pushed for conservation of the island. The report was drafted by the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration, with input from the EPA and the Fish and Wildlife Service. In coordination with Region 1, we provided suggestions on the report and helped clarify language on federal clean-up responsibility under CERCLA, post disposition of the facility.

East Side Coastal Resilience Rebuild By Design Project: The planned release of the DEIS for review is June of this year.

San Juan Archdiocese - Environmental Sustainability Workshop: On April 19 the San Juan Archdiocese will be holding an Environmental Sustainability Workshop. At this event the Archdiocese will host a press conference to announce its enrollment into the EPA's ENERGY STAR and WaterSense partnerships programs. CASD and CEPD have worked closely with the Archdiocese in making this milestone a reality, through outreach and technical assistance.

Hospitality Sector MOU: Region 2 EPA, the Puerto Rico Tourism Company and the Puerto Rico Solid Waste Authority have provided input to extend the existing MOU for strengthening the sustainable tourism facilities program in Puerto Rico another five years. In addition to updating the sections of the MOU relating to energy efficiency, water conservation, solid waste reduction, reuse and recycling, landscaping and pesticides practices and smart purchases, the MOU includes discussion about the importance of the three parties to work on the Caribbean Climate adaptation plan. A draft is undergoing CASD management review; the target date for the signing of the MOU event is late April or early May.

P2/SRA Grants Outreach in Puerto Rico: March 30 to April 1, CASD, CEPD and OPM staff hosted two successful availability sessions at Guaynabo and Ponce locations for organizations potentially interested in applying for the P2 and SRA grants programs; also held one-on-one meetings with some institutions. Approximately 50 individuals participated, representing a wide range of entities, such as: commonwealth/local governments, public and private universities, NGOs, trade/industry groups, consultants, etc. Additional follow-ups are being conducted.

SMM- Sustainable Food Management: CASD reached out to contacts at the Mayor's Office of Sustainability (MOS) about extending their Food Waste Challenge by linking their program, with EPA's Food Recovery Challenge. MOS staff responded enthusiastically and we are scheduled to present information about WasteWise and the FRC at their May meeting. In addition, we have been in discussion with DSNY on outreach strategies for business recruitment for both programs. DSNY is developing a contact data base that will be shared with us so that we can collaborate on outreach efforts for food waste reduction in NYC.

Waste Minimization and P2: CASD staff represented USEPA HQ and Region 2 at the 2015 National Automotive Technology Competition & the New York International Auto Show. We manned a booth promoting P2/Waste Minimization for auto repair & fleet maintenance shops & garages, sustainability and green vehicles, electric, hybrid & and clean diesel transport program.

Solvay, West Deptford, NJ: Solvay settled a class action lawsuit with borough of Paulsboro by paying \$1.84 million into two funds. If a federal court judge approves the settlement, limited residents could be entitled to \$200 and a single blood test for PFNA.

Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC): A scheduled outage, which the Unit No. 2 facility is now undergoing, will be extended to at least June 2016 to account for other unanticipated maintenance issue in the core area. Because of this, the final conclusion on the root cause evaluation of the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 tritium excursion will not be finalized until an auxiliary spent fuel heat removal system is relocated.